

**Coffman Introduces RESTART Act to Develop Rare Earths Supply Chain**  
*Seeks to Curtail Dangerous Reliance on Foreign Sources for Critical Materials*

**(WASHINGTON)** – Rep. Mike Coffman (R-Aurora) today introduced a bill to address the looming rare earths crisis. Coffman’s legislation, H.R. 4866, the Rare Earths Supply-Chain Technology and Resources Transformation Act of 2010 (RESTART Act) would, through a series of assessments and specific programs, attempt to reestablish a competitive domestic rare earth supply chain. Rare earths are the key to technological innovation and the growth of green jobs and critical to U.S. national security. Currently the U.S. is nearly 100 percent reliant on imports for these vital materials and a disruption in supply could jeopardize national security.

“Over 95 percent of worldwide rare earth mining today is located in China. There is no rare earth element mining taking place in North America and with worldwide demand growing exponentially the situation is only going to get worse. Rare earth elements are critical to high-technology industries and many critical weapons systems. It is a critical national security issue with potentially severe consequences. The looming crisis can be averted, but the U.S. needs to act now.” Coffman said.

The RESTART Act would initiate a number of key activities including; establish a federal rare earths working group to assess and monitor strategic needs, create a national stockpile, evaluate international trade practices, facilitate loan guarantees for domestic supply-chain development, and support innovation and workforce development to support the industry.

Coffman continued, “The U.S. needs to support and encourage the development of a competitive, domestic rare earth supply chain to support American jobs and manufacturing and ensure our national defense interests. This legislation is critical to creating a competitive, domestic rare earth supply chain in the U.S. over the next 5 years. We have ample resources, just not the ability to access and process them. That must change; our national security depends on it.”

Uses for rare earths have grown exponentially during the last twenty-five years in the automotive, defense, oil, electronics, and renewable energy industries. In addition to green technology, many military systems and national security concerns that keep us safe and free rely on rare earths.

Rep. Coffman previously introduced legislation included in last year's defense authorization bill requiring the Comptroller General to determine the extent to which specific military weapons systems are currently dependent upon rare-earth materials and the degree to which U.S. is dependent upon sources that could be interrupted or disrupted. The report is due to be complete on April 1, 2010.

[Click here to see the text of the legislation](#) .